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Groups at high risk for HBV infection who should be screened

Individuals born in areas with high*¶ or intermediate prevalence rates*Δ for HBV including immigrants and adopted children◇§
US-born persons not vaccinated as infants whose parents were born in regions with high HBV endemicity (≥8 percent)*
Household and sexual contacts of HBsAg-positive persons§
Persons who have ever injected drugs§
Persons with multiple sexual partners or history of sexually transmitted disease§
Men who have sex with men§
Inmates of correctional facilities§
Individuals with chronically elevated ALT or AST§
Individuals infected with HCV or HIV§
Patients undergoing renal dialysis§
All pregnant women
Persons needing immunosuppressive therapy

ALT: alanine aminotransferase; AST: aspartate transaminase; HBsAg: hepatitis B surface antigen; HBV: hepatitis B virus; HCV: hepatitis C virus; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus.

\* Refer to topic on Epidemiology, transmission, and prevention of hepatitis B virus infection for a description of high and intermediate prevalence areas.

¶ HBsAg prevalence ≥8 percent.

Δ HBsAg prevalence 2 to 7 percent.

◇ If HBsAg-positive persons are found in the first generation, subsequent generations should be tested.

§ Those who are seronegative should receive hepatitis B vaccine.

Adapted from: Lok ASF, McMahon BJ. Chronic hepatitis B: Update 2009. Hepatology 2009; 50:661. Available online at <http://publish.aasld.org/Pages/Default.aspx>. Accessed September 8th 2009. Copyright © 2009 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.

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